

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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R 051554Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0939

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, GW

SUBJECT: BONN'S VIEW OF THE HELSINKI ANNIVERSARY

BEGIN SUMMARY: CSCE AND ITS AFTERMATH CONTINUE TO BE VIEWED FROM WIDELY DIVERGENT PERSPECTIVES BY THE GOVERNMENT AND CDU/CSU OPPOSITION. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT CAST ITS REACTION TO THE ANNIVERSARY IN MUTED BUT HOPEFUL TERMS, THE OPPOSITION USED THE OCCASION TO ATTACK THE FINAL ACT, DECRYING IN PARTICULAR ITS LACK OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR GERMANS. END SUMMARY.

1. THE CDU/CSU ATTACK WAS LED BY CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE

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HELMUT KOHL WHO CHARGED THAT CSCE HAD NOT MADE EUROPE

MORE SECURE AND THAT THE FINAL ACT HAD BROUGHT THE GERMANS THE LEAST. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE CLIMATE BETWEEN THE FRG AND GDR WAS FROSTIER THAN BEFORE. KOHL CONTINUED THAT INSTEAD OF SECURITY, CSCE MEANT MORE ARMAMENT; INSTEAD OF FREER MOVEMENT, MORE SEPARATION; INSTEAD OF INFORMATION, MORE PROPAGANDA. IN HIS VIEW, "THE HELSINKI BASKETS ARE EMPTY" AND THE FRG IS THE LOSER.

2. ON AUGUST 2 THE CDU PRESIDUM MET IN BONN UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF CDU SECRETARY GENERAL BIEDENKOPF (KOHL WAS ON VACATION IN AUSTRIA), ISSUING LATER AN EVALUATION OF THE ANNIVERSARY. THE CDU EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT IN THE TWELVE MONTHS FOLLOWING THE CONFERENCE, THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION HAD BASICALLY CHANGED, WITH THE RATIO OF FORCES HAVING SHIFTED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THE CDU PRESIDUM, MOSCOW HAD USED DETENTE TO OBTAIN VANTAGE POINTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. THE GOVERNMENT'S BASIC LINE WAS THAT THERE WAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO DETENTE AND THAT THE FINAL ACT OFFERED A MEANS FOR PUTTING DETENTE ON A MORE SOLID BASIS IN EUROPE. COALITION POLITICIANS ISSUED STATEMENTS ENUMERATING THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS WHICH FLOWED FROM THE FINAL ACT. ANOTHER POINT INCLUDED BY SEVERAL SPOKESMEN WAS THAT THE FINAL ACT RATIFIED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE U.S. AND CANADA IN AND FOR EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: THE REACTION OF GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION TOWARD THE ANNIVERSARY WAS IN LINE WITH POSITIONS PREVIOUSLY TAKEN IN BONN. WHILE CITING THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED IN THE HUMANITARIAN AREA, THE GOVERNMENT NEVERTHELESS FELT ITSELF CONSTRAINED TO MAKE A "REALISTIC" APPRAISAL OF CONFERENCE RESULTS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY NECESSARY NOW BECAUSE OF THE FRESH POLITICAL TENSIONS WITH THE GDR OVER THE RECENT BORDER SHOOTING INCIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER'S THREAT TO RAISE THE MATTER NEXT YEAR IN BELGRADE (A FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL ADVISED US LATER THAT GENSCHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD NOT FOLLOW THROUGH ON HIS THREAT).

NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, THE OPPOSITION CONTINUED TO AVOID SAYING ANYTHING POSITIVE ABOUT THE FINAL ACT. THE NEGATIVE CDU EVALUATION WAS IN KEEPING WITH ITS HARD LINE AGAINST OSTPOLITIK AND ITS BELIEF THAT SOVIET POLITICAL AND MILITARY POWER HAS GROWN WITH DETENTE. HILLENBRAND

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